Claims

1.   (Withdrawn).

2.   (Withdrawn).

3.   (Withdrawn).

4.   (Withdrawn).

5.   (Withdrawn).

6.   (Withdrawn).

7.   (Withdrawn).

8.   (Withdrawn).

9.   (Withdrawn).

10.   (Withdrawn).

11.   (Withdrawn).

12.   (Withdrawn).

13.   (Withdrawn).

14.   (Withdrawn).

15.   (Withdrawn).

16.   (Withdrawn).

2

17.   (Withdrawn).

18.   (Withdrawn).

19.   (Withdrawn).

20.   (Withdrawn).

21.   (Withdrawn).

22.   (Withdrawn).

23.   (Withdrawn).

24.   (Withdrawn).

25.   (Withdrawn).

26.   (Withdrawn).

27.   (Withdrawn).

28.   (Withdrawn).

29.   (Withdrawn).

30.   (Withdrawn).

31.   (Withdrawn).

32.   (Withdrawn).

33.   (Withdrawn).

34.   (Withdrawn).

35.   (Withdrawn).

36.   (Withdrawn).

37.   (Withdrawn).

38.   (Withdrawn).

39.   (Withdrawn).

40.   (Withdrawn).

41.   (Withdrawn).

42.   (Withdrawn).

43.   (Withdrawn).

44.   (Withdrawn).

45.   (Withdrawn).

46.   (Withdrawn).

47.   (Withdrawn).

48.   (Withdrawn).

49.   (Withdrawn).

50.   (Withdrawn).

51.   (Withdrawn).

52.   (Withdrawn).

53.   (Withdrawn).

54.   (Withdrawn).

55.   (Withdrawn).

56.   (Withdrawn).

57.   (Withdrawn).

58.   (Withdrawn).

59.   (Withdrawn).

60.   (Withdrawn).

61.   (Withdrawn).

62.   (Withdrawn).

63.   (Withdrawn).

64.   (Withdrawn).

5

65.   (Withdrawn).

66.   (Withdrawn).

67.   (Withdrawn).

68.   (Withdrawn).

69.   (Withdrawn).

70.   (Withdrawn).

71.   (Withdrawn).

72.   (Withdrawn).

73.   (Withdrawn).

74.   (Withdrawn).

75.   (Withdrawn).

76.   (Withdrawn).

77.   (Withdrawn).

78.   (Withdrawn).

79.   (Withdrawn).

80.   (Withdrawn).

81.   (Withdrawn).

82.   (Withdrawn).

83.   (Withdrawn).

84.   (Withdrawn).

85.   (Withdrawn).

86.   (Withdrawn).

87.   (Withdrawn).

88.   (Withdrawn).

89.   (Withdrawn).

90.   (Withdrawn).

91.   (Withdrawn).

92.   (Withdrawn).

93.   (Withdrawn).

94.   (Withdrawn).

95.   (Withdrawn)

96.   (Original) A method of protecting a trade secret comprising the steps of:

   a) applying a plurality of generally accepted legal criteria to a content of the trade secret;

   b) assigning a value under each criterion; and

   c) generating one or more metrics from the assigned values through the use of logical and mathematical

7

processes, thereby allowing the comparison of results with predetermined threshold values.

97.   (Original) The method of protecting the trade secret as in claim 96 further comprising creating an application fingerprint from a content of the trade secret.

98.   (Original) The method of protecting trade secrets as in claim 97 wherein the step of creating the application fingerprint further comprises processing the content of the trade secret using a deterministic one-way algorithm.

99.   (Original) The method of protecting trade secrets as in claim 97 further comprising transferring the application fingerprint from a creator of the trade secret to a trusted third party.

100. (Original) The method of protecting trade secrets as in claim 99 further comprising creating a certificate fingerprint from the application fingerprint by the trusted third party.

101. (Original) The method of protecting trade secrets as in claim 100 further comprising transmitting the certificate fingerprint from the trusted third party to the creator of the trade secret as a trade secret certificate.

102. (Original) The method of protecting trade secrets as in claim 96 wherein the step of applying the plurality of generally accepted legal criteria further comprises using the six factors of a trade secret as set forth in Section 757 of the First Restatement of Torts.

8

103. (Original) The method of protecting trade secrets as in claim 96 wherein the step of assigning the value further comprises assigning numeric values, such as on a scale of one to five or such as on a scale of zero to ten.

104. (Original) The method of protecting trade secrets as in claim 96 wherein the step of generating one or more metrics further comprises comparing the assigned values with predetermined threshold values.

105. (Original) An apparatus for protecting a trade secret comprising:

a) means for applying a plurality of generally accepted legal criteria to a content of the trade secret;

b) means for assigning a value under each criterion; and

c) means for generating one or more metrics from the assigned values through the use of logical and mathematical processes, thereby allowing the comparison of results with predetermined threshold values.

106. (Original) The apparatus for protecting the trade secret as in claim 105 further comprising means for creating an application fingerprint from a content of the trade secret.

107. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 106 wherein the means for creating the application fingerprint further comprises means for processing the content of the trade secret using a deterministic one-way algorithm.

108. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 106 further comprising means for transferring the application fingerprint from a creator of the trade secret to a trusted third party.

109. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 108 further comprising means for creating a certificate fingerprint from the application fingerprint by the trusted third party.

110. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 109 further comprising means for transmitting the certificate fingerprint from the trusted third party to the creator of the trade secret as a trade secret certificate.

111. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 105 wherein the means for applying the plurality of generally accepted legal criteria further comprises means for using the six factors of a trade secret as set forth in Section 757 of the First Restatement of Torts.

112. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 105 wherein the means for assigning the value further comprises means for assigning numeric values, such as one to five or a scale of zero to ten.

113. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 105 wherein the means for generating one or more metrics further comprises means for comparing the assigned values with predetermined threshold values.

10

114. (Original) An apparatus for protecting a trade secret comprising:

a) an information processor adapted to apply a plurality of generally accepted legal criteria to a content of the trade secret;

b) an input device adapted to assign a value under each criterion; and

c) an arithmetic processor adapted to generate one or more metrics from the assigned values through the use of logical and mathematical processes, thereby allowing the comparison of results with predetermined threshold values.

115. (Original) The apparatus for protecting the trade secret as in claim 114 further comprising an application processor adapted to create an application fingerprint from a content of the trade secret.

116. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 114 further comprising a communication processor adapted to transfer the application fingerprint from a creator of the trade secret to a trusted third party.

117. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 116 further comprising a certificate processor adapted to create a certificate fingerprint from the application fingerprint by the trusted third party.

118. (Original) The apparatus for protecting trade secrets as in claim 114 wherein the arithmetic processor further

11

comprises a comparator processor adapted to compare the assigned values with predetermined threshold values.

12